



Wisconsin  
Department of Health Services

Wisconsin Public Health Statutes and  
Administrative Rules

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Objectives

- Public Health Laws
- Regulations governing Public Health Programs
- Health Department Levels

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Wisconsin Statutes (Wis. Stat.)

- Laws that establish the legal basis for public health in Wisconsin
- Created, amended or repealed by state legislature
- Stand on their own

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### Administrative Rules (Admin. Code)

- Authorized by statute
- Provide further explanation and additional rules to statutes
- Facilitate administration and enforcement of statutes
- Have the effect of law

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### Why Are They Important?

- Provide guidance and direction
- Authority
- Assurance

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### Wis. Stat. Ch. 251: Local Health Officials

- LHDs, levels of service, jurisdiction, joint services, how financed
- Boards of health members, powers, duties
- Health officer qualifications and duties
- Gives DHS rule making authority

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Wis. Admin. Code ch. DHS 140:  
Required Services

- Promulgated under the authority of Wis. Stat. §251.20
- Authorized by Legislature to create, amend or repeal administrative rules

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Mandatory Directive

Wis. Stat. § 250.03 Public Health System (1)  
The department **shall**

- Maintain a public health system
- Serve as state lead agency for public health

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Permissive Authority

Wis. Stat. § 250.04 (7) The department **may**

- Promulgate and enforce rules
- Issue and enforce orders governing the duties of all local health officers and local boards of health

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Resources

- WI State Legislature:  
<http://legis.wisconsin.gov>
- Administrative Rules Rulemaking:  
<https://health.wisconsin.gov/admrules/public/Home>
- Department of Health Services:  
[www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/rules/index.html](http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/rules/index.html)

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Resources

- Network for Public Health Law:  
[www.networkforphl.org](http://www.networkforphl.org)
- CDC's Public Health Law Program:  
[www.cdc.gov/phlp](http://www.cdc.gov/phlp)
- Corporation Counsel

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